AMENDMENT

In the specification, please amend as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph before paragraph 2 at page 1:

-- A deposit of the gene designated 819PH59 in *E. coli* XL1-Blue has been made with and accepted by the ATCC located at 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110-2209, on November 26, 2002. The Patent Deposit Designation is PTA-4822. –

[0009] However, a significant negative effect associated with the overuse of antibiotics is the danger of creating a repository of pathogenic antibiotic-resistant microbial strains. This danger is imminent, and the rise of drug-resistant pathogens in humans has already been linked to the use of antibiotics in livestock. For example, Avoparcin, the antibiotic used in animal feeds, was banned in many places in 1997, and animals are now being given another antibiotic, virginiamycin, which is very similar to the new drug, Synercid®, used to replace vancomycin in human beings. However, studies have already shown that some enterococci in farm animals are resistant to Synercid®. Consequently, undesired tolerance consequences, such as those already seen with Avoparcin and vancomycin, are likely to reoccur no matter what new antibiotics are used as blanket prophylactics for farmed animals. Accordingly, researchers are calling for tighter controls on drug use in the industry.

[0025] In a particular exemplification, it is appreciated that the manufacture of fish feed pellets requires exposure of ~~ingedients~~ ingredients to high temperatures &/or pressure in order to produce pellets that do not dissolve &/or degrade prematurely (*e.g.* ~~*e.g.*~~ prior to consumption) upon subjection to water. It would thus be desirable for this manufacturing process to obtain additive enzymes that are stable under high temperature and/or pressure conditions. Accordingly it is appreciated that distinct phytases may be differentially preferable or optimal for distinct applications.